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The Papaya Gang
by Aoki Mitsue
Volume 2
Chapter 11
I was worked on by Lililicious and HotCakes!
Scanned and translated by: Sailor Avalon
Edited by: NightSwan
QC'd by: SpaceTart, Anonko, Sailor Avalon and Tiny Snowfairy
http://www.lililicious.net
http://hotcakes.cc.nf

Scene 11
Chieri and mika
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Welcome! It's so good to see you. It's been too long.
"TOO LONG"? I SAW YOU JUST LAST MONTH.....
EHEHE WHAT A FINE MAN YOU'VE GROWN INTO.
OH HAVE YOU GOTTEN A BIT TALLER?

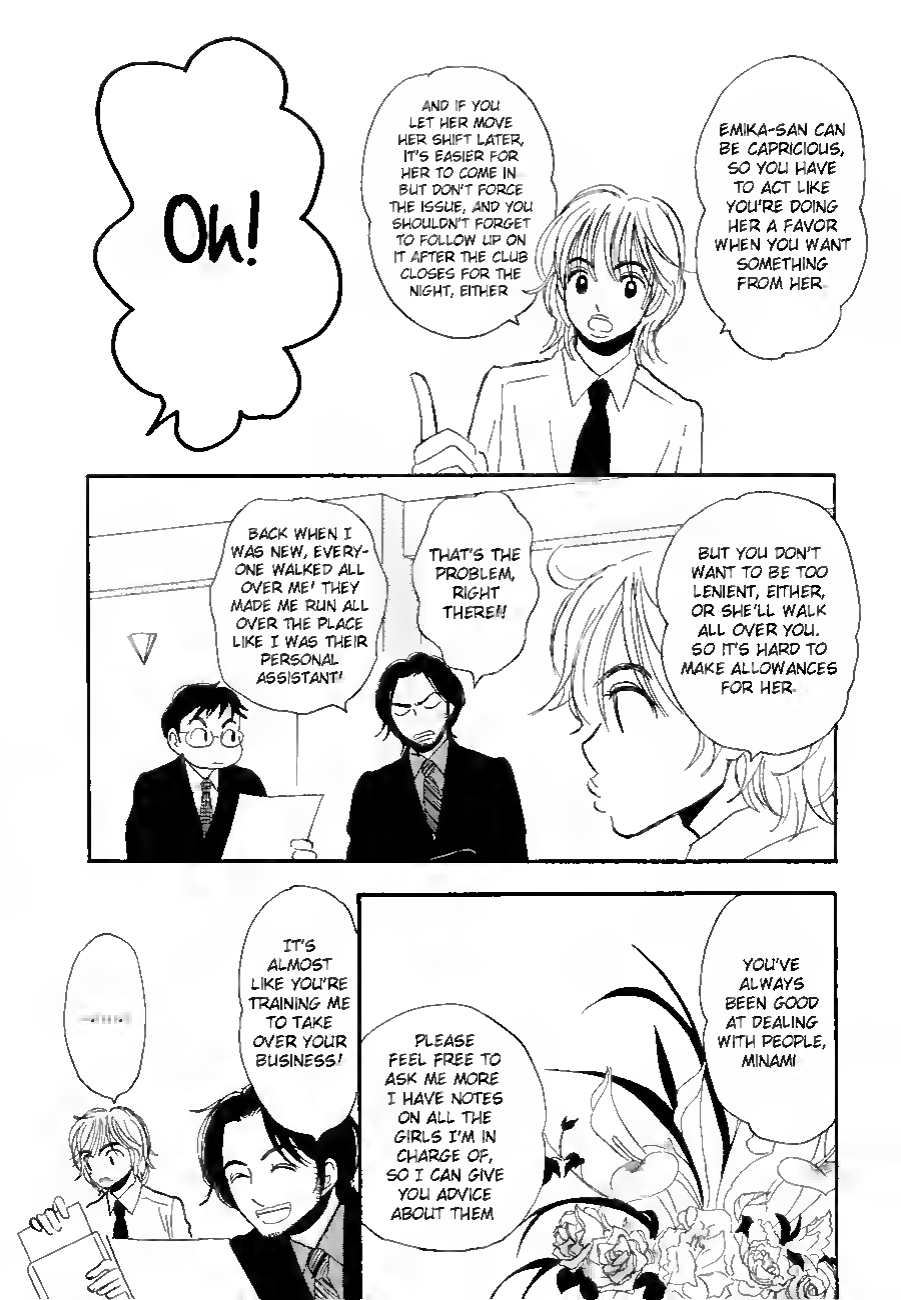
I BROUGHT THE CAR BACK IT'S DOWN-STAIRS
OH, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE! IT WAS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR YOU!
IT'S NOT A MINI-CAR! I CAN'T ACCEPT SOMETHING SO CRAZY EXPENSIVE! IT'S OUT OF MY LEAGUE!
IT MAKES IT LOOK LIKE I HAVE A SUGAR MOMMA OR SOMETHING!
WHY NOT SIMPLY TELL PEOPLE THE TRUTH? IT'S NOT AS THOUGH YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO HIDE.
SO...
HAVE YOU MADE UP YOUR MIND?
ARE YOU PREPARED TO TAKE OVER THE BUSINESS WHEN I RETIRE?

pant
pant
AHHN...
AH! AH.....!!
pant
pant
pant
OMIGOD! MIYATA-SAN..... YOU REACH SO DEEP INSIDE ME.....
pant..
sich..
pant
pant
MM!
MM..... AHN..... YOU'RE SO BIG...!!
pant..
sich.. sich..
YOU FEEL AMAZING, TOO, CHIE-RI-CHAN. YOU'RE SO TIGHT!
UNH..... AHHH.....!
pant
pant

BANG
EEK!
!!
M-MIKA-CHAN .. .. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR LESSON?
HELLO! I'M JUST HERE FOR A LITTLE VISIT!!
..IT WAS MOVED TO TONIGHT.....
BUT ANYWAY
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE EXCHANGING PLEASANT-RIES!!

BOSS,
I DREW THIS UP FOR YOU.
OH!
IT'S A LIST OF ALL OUR SUPPLIES, PLUS A MANUAL OF SORTS ON MAKING BUSINESS CARDS, MANAGING OUR CLEANING ROTA, AND OTHER ASSORTED TASKS.
WE HAVEN'T ESTABLISHED CLEAR, FORMAL PROCEDURES FOR MUCH OF ANYTHING YET, HAVE WE?
YEAH, THIS IS GREAT.
I'VE REALIZED THAT I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN DOING EVERYTHING MYSELF.
IT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR ME TO JUST WORK HARD ON MY OWN.

I HAVE TO MAKE SURE THE CLUB WON'T BE IN TROUBLE IF YOU SUDDENLY FIND YOURSELVES WITHOUT ME . . .
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT! YOU'RE SO DEPENDABLE, I'VE BEEN RELYING ON YOU TOO MUCH!
MINAMI-SAAAN . . . UMMM . . . EMIKA-SAN SAYS SHE CAN'T COME IN TODAY . . .
HMM?
GOOD MORNING! IT'S MINAMI. HOW ARE YOU DOING? I HOPE THAT COLD'S NOT MAKING YOU TOO MISERABLE?
UH-HUH. UH-HUH. IF YOU CAN COME IN TODAY, YOU'LL HAVE PERFECT ATTENDANCE. IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO MISS OUT ON THAT OVER ONE DAY, RIGHT?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST DROP BY, AND SEE HOW IT GOES? UH-HUH. THAT'S RIGHT! YES. SO JUST GET HERE WHEN YOU CAN, AND YOU CAN STAY LATE TO MAKE UP THE TIME.
UNLESS YOU DON'T FEEL WELL, IN WHICH CASE YOU CAN LEAVE EARLY. WE DON'T WANT YOU TO STRAIN YOURSELF.
WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE, THE PLACE JUST ISN'T THE SAME! . . . YES, EXACTLY!! THANKS, WE'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU!
SHE'LL BE HERE AT EIGHT.
Whoa ——!
I'M ALWAYS IMPRESSED WHEN YOU PULL OFF SOMETHING LIKE THAT! I WISH THERE WAS A MANUAL FOR THAT!
WELL, IT COMES DOWN TO EVERYDAY INTERACTIONS, REALLY.


Oh!
AND IF YOU LET HER MOVE HER SHIFT LATER, IT'S EASIER FOR HER TO COME IN BUT DON'T FORCE THE ISSUE, AND YOU SHOULDN'T FORGET TO FOLLOW UP ON IT AFTER THE CLUB CLOSES FOR THE NIGHT, EITHER
EMIKA-SAN CAN BE CAPRICIOUS, SO YOU HAVE TO ACT LIKE YOU'RE DOING HER A FAVOR WHEN YOU WANT SOMETHING FROM HER
BACK WHEN I WAS NEW, EVERY-ONE WALKED ALL OVER ME! THEY MADE ME RUN ALL OVER THE PLACE LIKE I WAS THEIR PERSONAL ASSISTANT!
THAT'S THE PROBLEM, RIGHT THERE!!
BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE TOO LENIENT, EITHER, OR SHE'LL WALK ALL OVER YOU. SO IT'S HARD TO MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR HER
IT'S ALMOST LIKE YOU'RE TRAINING ME TO TAKE OVER YOUR BUSINESS!
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ASK ME MORE I HAVE NOTES ON ALL THE GIRLS I'M IN CHARGE OF, SO I CAN GIVE YOU ADVICE ABOUT THEM
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT DEALING WITH PEOPLE, MINAMI

DO YOU REALLY LIKE DICK THAT MUCH?!
.....
YEAH, I DO.
AND YOU LIKE IT WHEN I PUT A VIBRATOR INSIDE YOU, TOO, MIKA-CHAN!!
THAT'S DIFFERENT!
HEY...
.....COULD YOU GUYS KEEP IT DOWN IN HERE?!
This is MY HOME!!

Hot-headed.....?!
Grr!!
YOU ARE! I ALREADY APOLOGIZED A THOUSAND TIMES! WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
I'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN, I PROMISE!
But——!!!
...MIKA-CHAN'S AS HOT-BLOODED AND HOT-HEADED... AS A TEENAGE BOY.....
MUTTER...
!
YOU'RE A TOTAL SLUT!!
Grrr!!
IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME, THOUGH, IS IT?
YOU JUST FEEL LIKE THIS 'CAUSE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IN A RELATIONSHIP BEFORE!
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF ME?!
WHAT, DO YOU THINK NEITHER OF US IS EVER GOING TO SLEEP WITH ANYONE ELSE FOR AS LONG AS WE LIVE?! YOU NEED TO COME BACK DOWN TO EARTH!
SO...
.....

SOONER OR LATER, ONE OF US IS GOING TO SETTLE DOWN WITH A GUY AND START A FAMILY!
!
IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS GOING TO LAST FOREVER, ANYWAY!!

SO THAT'S HOW YOU'VE FELT, ALL ALONG?
..... NOW, HOLD ON, CHIERI.....
.....YES.
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, SO THE THOUGHT HAS PROBABLY NEVER CROSSED YOUR MIND,
BUT I'M ALMOST 26!! OF COURSE I THINK ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT!!

YOU JUST FREELOAD AT MY APARTMENT OR THE BOSS'S PLACE, DOING WHATEVER YOU PLEASE, HAVING SEX WITH A GIRL!
YOU'RE LIVING IN NEVER-LAND!!
HEY! MIKA! HEY!!
SLAM!
DAMN IT, CHIERI

NO, YOU HAVE TO GO AFTER HER AND APOLO-GIZE!!
ONCE I SAID THAT...
I KNEW IT WOULD ALL BE OVER.....
IT'S THE TRUTH.....
..... BUT.....
WHOA!! MAN, AM I GLAD SHE ISN'T MY GIRL-FRIEND!!
AND BESIDES, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TURN A GUY DOWN UNLESS I REALLY DON'T LIKE HIM.....!
MAYBE IT IS, BUT STILL!!
Her standards are way too low when it comes to guys!!

AND HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF MIKA CHEATED ON YOU WITH A GUY? YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT EITHER, WOULD YOU?
WELL, MIKA DOESN'T LIKE IT, SO STOP DOING IT, FOR HER SAKE.
OMIGOD! THAT'S SO HOT!!
I'D LIKE TO PEEP ON THEM!!
MAYBE EVEN JOIN IN!
.....SHE'S HOPELESS AS A HUMAN BEING

WELL..... THAT GUY I CHEATED ON MIKA-CHAN WITH..... HE PROPOSED TO ME.
.....BOSS, UM.....
JUST CALM DOWN, ALL RIGHT? YOU HAVE TO PICK ONE
So basically, I just have to get my own place, and make a ton of money so I can support her?!
Neverland, my ass!!!!!

THAT SOUNDS MORE LIKE NEVERLAND TO ME!
YOU NEED TO SMILE! LIKE A PRINCESS!
KURARA!! STOP MAKING THAT FRIGHTFUL FACE!
smile!
How am I gonna make that much money, though?!
She said she was 22 at work.....
.....I didn't know she was 26.....
OH, YOU'RE IN EARLY!
club Papaya

.....
YEAH...
YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PLACE, RIGHT?
HOW DID YOU SWING THAT?
WELL... I WAS BROKE, SO AT FIRST, I WAS JUST FREELOADING AT THE CLUB OWNER'S PLACE.
I WORKED MY BUTT OFF SO I COULD SAVE UP ENOUGH TO GET MY OWN APARTMENT.
SO, YOU WANT TO MOVE OUT OF THE BOSS'S PLACE?
MM... NOT EXACTLY..

CAN'T YOU JUST PAY THE BOSS RENT, THEN?
AND CHIP IN FOR UTILITIES?
OH!
YEAH! YOU'RE SMART, MINAMI-KUN!
.....THIS GIRL I'M DATING TOLD ME THAT I WASN'T INDEPENDENT ENOUGH.....
..... WAIT, ... THAT STILL DOESN'T GET AT THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM, THOUGH.....
IT'S CHIERI-SAN, RIGHT? THE GIRL YOU'RE DATING?
!! HAJIME TOLD YOU?! THAT LITTLE...!!
NO, NO I JUST HAD A FEELING BECAUSE OF THE WAY THE TWO OF YOU ACT AROUND EACH OTHER.
.....
SHE SAID BEING IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH A GIRL WAS JUST LIVING IN NEVER-LAND.....

OH..... .....
THAT'S AWFULLY HARSH .....
WELL, AS A STAFF MEMBER AT THE CLUB, MY OPINION IS...
... ...
YOU SHOULD WORK HARD AND GO ON MORE OUTINGS WITH CLIENTS TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY!
THAT WILL PUT CHIERI-SAN'S MIND AT EASE! GO FOR IT!
BU-UT...
Requited love is a rare, miraculous phenomenon. If you've been blessed with it, you shouldn't be so greedy as to ask for more
HUUUUH?! WHAT THE HECK?!
AS WATANABE MINAMI THE PERSON, MY OPINION IS...
So Minami is his given name?

SHE'S NOT TOO THIN. SHE'S CUTE. SHE'S NOT STRAIT-LACED. SHE KINDA LETS THINGS SLIDE. SHE'S SOFT TO THE TOUCH, AND SHE FEELS GOOD AND SMELLS GOOD, TOO.
.....
WHAAAA..?
WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT CHIERI-SAN?
EVEN IF SHE CAN'T BE YOURS, WON'T IT MAKE YOU HAPPY THAT THE PERSON YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH IS STILL IN THERE SOMEWHERE, EVEN IF SHE ONLY SHOWS HERSELF FOR A MINUTE, OR EVEN JUST A SECOND?
SO, AS LONG AS SHE STILL HAS ALL THOSE QUALITIES YOU LOVE, ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
BUT!
CHIERI-SAN HAS CHANGED SINCE YOU STARTED GOING OUT, YOU KNOW.
HUH?! REALLY?!
WHAT THE HECK HAS THIS GUY BEEN THROUGH.....?
.....
UH-HUH.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT I THINK, ANYWAY!

SHE'S MORE DOWN-TO-EARTH THAN SHE USED TO BE.
SHE USED TO BE EVEN WORSE?!
THAT'S RIGHT.
Then why is she cheating on me so much?! That's not normal!
SHOULDN'T THE TWO OF YOU DETERMINE WHAT'S "NORMAL" FOR YOUR OWN RELATIONSHIP?
I THINK SHE DOES HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOU, IN HER OWN WAY.
..... REALLY .....?
MINAMI ...
WHOA!
PEEK

.....WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK UPSET.....
YEAH
.....SORRY I RAN OFF LIKE THAT
YOU PROBABLY GOT STUCK LISTENING TO HER COMPLAIN ABOUT IT, HUH? SORRY..
YEAH, DON'T JUST DUMP HER ON ME LIKE THAT! YOU HAVE TO HANDLE YOUR PROBLEMS YOURSELF!
.....DID SHE SAY SOMETHING BAD?
WHAT?! YOU BET SHE DID! SHE SAID THAT GUY PROPOSED TO HER!
BUT ANYWAY! SORRY, I HAVE OTHER STUFF TO DEAL WITH RIGHT NOW I DON'T HAVE TIME TO HANDLE YOUR LOVER'S QUARREL, TOO! MINAMI!
P-.....?

PROPOSED?! WHAAA-AAAAAT?! HUUUUUUH?!
I THINK WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CLOSE THE PLACE DOWN.
SHUT DOWN..... THE CLUB?
YEAH PROBABLY
WELL, THAT'S THE BIZ...
SURE IS.....
HUUUUH? HUUUUUUH? HUUUUU-UUUH?!
How can you be so calm about it?!